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Legal hurdles

Mom plans constitutional challenge for guardianship of her daughter. PAGE 4

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OSCAR GOLD; PAY NOT SO MUCH

Patricia Arquette accepts the award for best actress in a supporting role for *Boyhood* at the Oscars on Sunday, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Arquette used her acceptance speech to make a strong statement about the importance of pay equity. For more Academy Awards coverage, see pages 12 & 13. JOHN SHEARER/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police vow vigilance on mall threat

Terror. Somali group al-Shabab suggests attack against West Edmonton Mall in video



**RYAN
TUMILTY**
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In the wake of a terrorist threat lobbed from halfway across the world, Edmonton police emphasized Sunday the community is safe.

The threat comes from al-Shabab, a Somali terrorist group, which claimed responsibility for an attack against a Kenyan mall in 2013 that left 67 people dead.

The brief reference to the West Edmonton Mall is near the end of a 76-minute documentary-style video about the mall attack.

"What if such an attack were to occur in the Mall of America in Minnesota? Or the West Edmonton Mall in Canada? Or

in London's Oxford Street?" a masked man asked on the video.

Edmonton police are taking the threat seriously, said Deputy Chief Brian Simpson, but noted it was not a specific threat.

"I feel West Edmonton Mall is very safe," he said. "I also feel this community is very safe."

Simpson said police were working with mall security and people in the Somali and Muslim communities. "Our best opportunity to deal with (these types of) threats is to involve our community," he said.

Police have said before that they are actively investigating several people in Alberta, because they fear people are being radicalized.

RCMP assistant commissioner Marlin Degrand said after a threat like this they would be more vigilant.

"We will be looking for any changes in behaviour, any of those signs or indicators that there might be some kind of a concern," he said.

More inside on page 6



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Downtown

One dead, four more in hospital after stabbings

One person is dead and four others are in hospital after all of them were found with stab wounds by police in downtown Edmonton early Sunday morning.

Officers were first called around 3:30 a.m. to a weapons complaint around 102 Street and 107 Avenue, where they found two men suffering from stab wounds.

Paramedics treated the two men and transported them to hospital where they were listed in serious but stable condition.

The ensuing investigation led police just one block farther to an apartment at 103 Street and 107 Avenue where they found a 23-year-old man also suffering from stab wounds.

Emergency medical services also transported the man to hospital, where he eventually died.

Detectives then found two additional men in hospital who were also suffering from stab wounds.

Edmonton police are continuing to investigate the incidents, but believe all five victims are related to the same event.

Police encourage anyone who has information or may have seen something suspicious in the area to contact the Edmonton Police Service at 780-423-4567 or #377 from a mobile phone.

Anonymous information can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

METRO

Minister warns cities 'every line' up for cuts

Budget. Edmonton looks at options as province takes \$7B hit from low oil prices



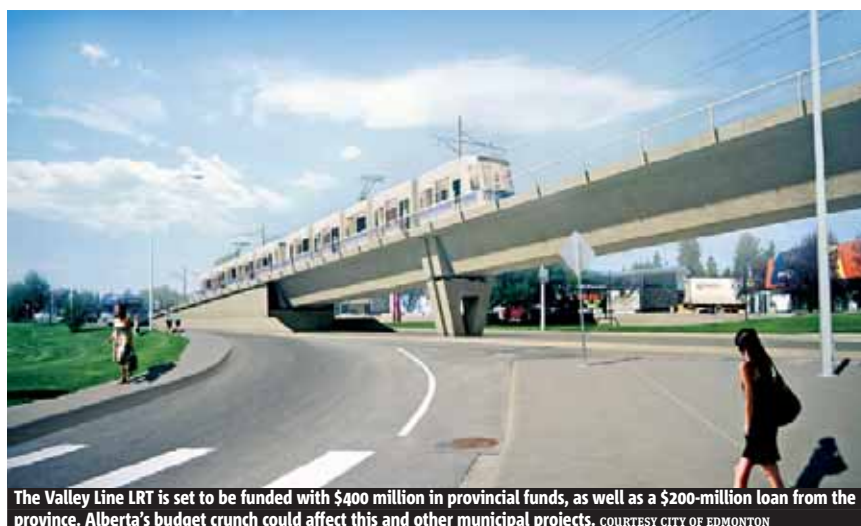
RYAN TUMILTY
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Alberta's municipal affairs minister says the province's cities should not expect to be immune from cuts in the coming budget, even if no final decisions have been made yet.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dianna McQueen said the collapse in oil prices drills a \$7-billion hole in Alberta coffers, which means the province has to look at everything.

"It's not business as usual when you have that kind of a gap and every line item in every ministry is on the table," she said.

The City of Edmonton's most recent capital budget plans for \$863 million in municipal sustainability initiative funding from the province.



The Valley Line LRT is set to be funded with \$400 million in provincial funds, as well as a \$200-million loan from the province. Alberta's budget crunch could affect this and other municipal projects. COURTESY CITY OF EDMONTON

That money is budgeted to go into local arena projects and fire stations, while the province has also pledged \$400 million for the new Valley Line LRT.

Todd Burge, the city's acting chief financial officer, said they're very much hoping those funds aren't reduced, be-

cause the city is still catching up with demands.

"There was a long period of time where we didn't make any investment in infrastructure," he said.

Burge said the city has started looking at some of the steps to take if there are cuts in infra-

structure grants.

"I don't think it means cancelling projects. I think it means us looking at the time frame for projects," he said.

He said right now they don't know exactly what to expect.

"I know what I read in your paper."

Fare hike, tax levy may fund LRT: Report



STEPHANIE DUBOIS
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Edmonton transit users may be charged more — that's just one option being floated by city administrators who are looking for ways to fund future LRT expansion, including new lines.

Five options are contained in a report, released Friday. Councilors will discuss them Wednesday.

"The intent of the report is to explore where council would like to go on some of these things," said Todd Burge, the city's acting CFO.

"Ultimately what we'd like to see at the end of the day is ... council develop a long-term strategy."

As regards the fare surcharge option, city administration provides information that weighs the revenue increases versus the effect on ridership

of fare increases from one to 10 per cent. The analysis does not include certain fares, such as the UPass.

Another option to fund future LRT projects is tax-supported debt service room (debt service room from previous larger projects that will become available between 2019 and 2034).

Excess gas tax funds and pay-as-you-go funding will also become available, according to

the report.

Council could also approve an additional tax levy "towards the LRT reserve to fund other future lines."

Although the information in the report is just speculative, city staff say they could do further research, pending council direction.

"I think there isn't just one option, there's a combination of multiple options," said Burge.

1 NEWS



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Zoe Ayouka cuddles with her 18-month-old daughter Khloe. Ayouka is planning a constitutional challenge to gain custody of her daughter because she is not a biological parent. CONTRIBUTED

Wording of law may mean court for mom

LGBTQ rights. Legal expert says certain steps need to be taken to protect parents

Quoted

"I can see a constitutional challenge being made, but there is no clear path to success."

University of Alberta law professor Averie McNary



LEAH HOLOIDAY

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As an Edmonton woman prepares to fight for guardianship of her 18-month-old daughter, legal experts question if the entire situation could have been avoided from the start.

Even though she's listed as a parent on her daughter Khloe's birth certificate, Zoe Ayouka, 20, said she might be forced to make a constitutional challenge because of the wording in the Alberta Family Law Act.

Ayouka isn't Khloe's biological parent, but the former partner of the child's birth mother.

"The reason I have to make

this constitutional challenge if we can't come to an agreement is that I meet every single requirement but I'm not a male, and the (Alberta law) is clearly directed towards males," said Ayouka.

Averie McNary, a University of Alberta law professor specializing in ethics, said such a case is not unheard of but Ayouka's success is really dependent on steps taken at Khloe's birth.

"The law, as it stands right now with respect to the declaration of parentage, is the birth mom is the mom and the (biological) dad is the father unless certain steps were taken to change that, to get rid of bio-dad and replace that with another parent," she

said.

McNary said Ayouka could have some trouble with a constitutional challenge because those steps weren't taken at birth.

"I can see a constitutional challenge being made, but there is no clear path to success," she said.

McNary said it's important that parents in same-sex relationships get the proper advice from the start.

"It sounds very boring and unromantic, but it really is advisable to get clear legal advice at the time the baby is born," she said.

Ayouka is raising funds for her legal battle with a GoFundMe page. For information, see gofundme.com/luvvuw.

"Sometimes all you have to do is show up and just be yourself." Alexis Hillyard

An advocate for sexual and gender minorities, loving sister, daughter and friend, and a proud gay woman, Alexis Hillyard is example of the positive results of mentoring. Together with other leaders in our community, Alexis is spreading the word that mentoring can have a real impact on the lives of young people.

"Littles" come from all ethnicities, backgrounds and personal circumstances. In Edmonton and area, young people are waiting for a volunteer to step forward and be their friend. If you have a couple of hours a week and want to make a difference, please join us.

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1934 38th Ave.
5912 104th St.
6172 50th St. NW
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10309 34th Ave.
10642 82nd Ave.

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14903 118th Ave. NW

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Drayton Valley. RCMP fire weapon after car chase

A man is facing several charges after evading police in Drayton Valley, west of Edmonton.

According to RCMP, officers attempted to pull over a vehicle reported stolen, before it took off near Township Road 494 and Range Road 60.

Officers pursued the car, which headed to a wooded area nearby.

The stolen car eventually got stuck in the rough terrain and as officers tried to approach the vehicle, a lone suspect "abruptly reached

Status

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team will investigate the incident.

back into the vehicle to remove an unknown object," said police.

RCMP discharged one shot from their gun, before arresting the 27-year-old man. No one was injured in the altercation.

METRO

Politics

Wildrose moving up leadership selection

The Wildrose won't wade into a possible spring election without a permanent leader in place after all.

Party president Jeff Callaway said they are still

finalizing exact details but plan to move their leadership vote up from June, when it was initially set, to sometime in late March.

Callaway said the party wants to present a clear choice to Albertans.

"We will be ready, regardless. We will have 87 candidates on the ballot if the election is called this spring." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Terrorist threat doesn't concern staff, shoppers



Weekend shoppers still flocked to West Edmonton Mall despite a recent video that urged extremist to target malls. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

West Edmonton Mall. Sunday shopping continued despite release of al-Shabab video

LEAH HOLOIDAY
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Despite the release of a video that urged extremist groups to attack shopping malls in Canada, the United States and Britain, shoppers and staff at West Edmonton mall continued with their weekend business Sunday.

In a statement released by the mall, spokeswoman Sheri Clegg said mall management is aware of the video, released by Somali extremist group al-Shabab. Management has taken extra security measures to ensure guest and staff safety, Clegg said.

"We will continue to monitor events with the help of federal and local law enforcement

agencies," the statement continued. "As always, we take any potential threat seriously and respond appropriately."

Vicki Olson of Camrose said she heard the news Sunday morning, but it didn't stop her from heading to the mall.

"I come here maybe once a year," said Olson. "It's a little distressing, but they also said ... the chances of it happening are very slim."

Jeannine Solowy, who is visiting Edmonton from Yellowknife, said the news was upsetting but the response from RCMP and police have been reassuring.

"I feel like they have a handle on it," she said. "I feel like it's much better when they alert the public."

Karen Maguddatu, who has worked at a mall kiosk for the last year, said she hasn't heard from mall authorities about increased security protocol.

"It's a bit (concerning)," she said, adding that she'll still be coming into work.

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Proposed rezoning in the Oliver neighbourhood to accommodate an apartment building with commercial/retail uses at street level

Residents are invited to attend a public meeting to provide feedback on an application to amend Oliver Area Redevelopment Bylaw 11618 and rezone properties 12327-102 Avenue; 10127 and 10131-124 Street, located between 123 Street and 124 Street south of 102 Avenue, from CB1 (Low Intensity Business Zone) to DC1 (Direct Development Control Provisions). The rezoning will allow for the dismantling and reassembling of the west, north and south facades of the historic Buena Vista building, as well as the development of an 82 metre tall (approximately 25 storey) apartment building with commercial/retail uses at street level. A maximum of 250 residential units and approximately 245 underground parking stalls is proposed.

There will be opportunities to provide comments and feedback to the City and the applicant, which will be summarized in a report to City Council for consideration and a final decision on the rezoning.



Learn more about and get involved in City issues affecting you and your neighbourhood. Go to www.edmonton.ca/PublicInvolvementCalendar for a list of public involvement opportunities.

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Edmonton

Site takes bets on existence of alien life forms

Playnow.com. Novelty bets no added danger to addicts, says spokesman for government website



SHANE GIBSON
Metro in Winnipeg

Manitoba gamblers can now get odds on some very odd things through the province's online gambling website.

Playnow.com quietly began taking bets in November on things as strange as when the existence of intelligent extra-terrestrial life will be proven — they're giving 90-to-1 odds it happens this year — to what colour hair Prince William and Kate's second child will have.

The odds on grey, by the way, are 28-to-1.

"They're known as novelty or entertainment bets," explained Chris Fairclough of Playnow, adding that pop-culture events like the Academy Awards are proving popular with betters.

"It's all based around spectacles like Super Bowl or the Oscars — something that has a lot of weight and a lot of marketing dollars behind them — but we offer betting

Gods of the odds

The site uses odds that are set by Irish bookmaking giant, Paddy Power.

- "They are one of the world's premier odds setters," said Fairclough.

on a variety of cultural and hot topics that are going on in the news as well, whether that's the presidential election coming up or that's the sex of Will and Kate's baby."

Fairclough said Manitobans over 18 who have signed up for an account can put as little as 10 cents or as much as \$10,000, in some cases, down on a novelty bet.

As for concerns about giving gambling addicts more things to bet on, Fairclough said that as a joint venture between the governments of Manitoba and British Columbia, Playnow.com has safeguards in place.

"Would you rather money be going offshore to some illegal gaming website ... or would you rather the proceeds be going back into education?" he asked. "When it comes to responsible-gambling tools or problem gambling, we would rather have control."



Icebreakers finally free ship

A crew member aboard the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Griffon keeps a close watch on the S.S. Arthur M. Anderson as the icebreaker assists the freighter out of heavy ice conditions on southern Lake Erie on Saturday. A spokeswoman for the Coast Guard said the Anderson had been trapped since Tuesday. **CANADIAN COAST GUARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Environment

Recyclable scrap sits rusting on northern tundra

The metal dump sits outside the Nunavut community of Arviat, stretching exposed for almost a kilometre.

"Every piece of metal, every car, every washer, every dryer, every lawn chair that's come into the community, has never left," said Steve

England, the hamlet's senior administrative officer. "It's still here."

Arviat, on the west coast of Hudson Bay, isn't unique. Although vehicles and appliances are regularly shipped into communities across the North, few, if any, have ever been sent back south when their lives are over.

Hundreds of tonnes of junked vehicles, heavy machinery and household appliances clog Nunavut landfills. So do their tires, lead acid

batteries, mercury switches and engine fluids.

"It is a huge issue in the North because there is no real way to recycle or bury the waste when you're basically sitting on rock," said Shawn Stucky, administrator of Gjoa Haven on King William Island.

Last summer, a small Ontario environmental group, together with 10 business partners and local residents, pulled off the first successful attempt to decommission at

least some of the wrecks and send them south for recycling.

"It's one of the shining success stories," said England of Summerhill Impact's Tundra Take-Back program.

But the group's ability to extend last summer's pilot program is in doubt.

Environment Canada hasn't committed to renewing the \$100,000 grant that got the ball rolling last year. The group's crowdfunding drive has stalled at less than a third of its goal. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Tory plan for veterans faces new challenges

Job transition. Not all military pension counts toward eventual civil service retirement

Another wrinkle has developed in the Harper government's push to give veterans preferred status for federal jobs: for many reservists, not all of their military pension counts toward their eventual civil service retirement.

Beth Lepage, a former air force captain, said a portion of her Canadian Forces pension — accumulated as a part-time member — can't be converted because of a difference in the way government and military retirement benefits are calcu-

Easy fix?

Military ombudsman Gary Walbourne said he doesn't understand why the government is reluctant to make what he believes would be a relatively easy fix.

- "There is a good potential that this can become a larger problem than it is," Walbourne said.

lated. Lepage said she believes that will be a significant barrier to ex-soldiers with both full- and part-time service applying for federal jobs, a transition the Conservative government says it's eager to facilitate.

In order to fix the problem,

the federal Treasury Board would have to rewrite the regulations governing how pension funds are converted — something it has so far refused to do.

"I may not be an Afghanisthan veteran, but I served my country for just under 24 years," Lepage said. "The government is holding tens of thousands of dollars I took out of my RRSP a few years ago. They're making the interest on it. So, I feel like they're holding my pension hostage."

There are about 30 cases similar to Lepage's in the system. The Canadian Press has learned. Lepage predicts it will become a bigger problem as more ex-soldiers with mixed-service time look to take advantage of the fast-track offer of federal jobs. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Beloved beluga dies at SeaWorld

In this 2013 handout photo, Nanuq, a 2,200-pound beluga whale, gets acquainted with actress Isla Fisher at SeaWorld in San Diego. SeaWorld officials said Nanuq died Thursday at the estimated age of 31 or 32. The Vancouver Aquarium had lent the beluga whale to Orlando SeaWorld for breeding purposes. While the cause of death is not yet known, he had been undergoing treatment for an infection caused by a broken jaw that occurred in an encounter with other animals. Nanuq's death is renewing the debate over whether cetaceans should be bred in captivity.

PHOTO: SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO/GETTY IMAGES; TEXT: GETTY IMAGES, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Railway

CN resumes talks with union

Canadian National Railway and Unifor have resumed contract talks a day before the railway has threatened to lock out nearly 5,000 employees.

A CN statement says the company hopes to reach a negotiated settlement or to persuade the union to agree to binding arbitration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics

Liberals call for law on assisted suicide

Justin Trudeau's Liberals want the outlines of a new law governing doctor-assisted dying to be clear by mid-summer — before Canadians head to the polls in October. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Dozens dead after river ferry sinks

Bangladesh. It was struck by the cargo vessel at a crossing on the Padma

A river ferry carrying up to 140 passengers capsized in central Bangladesh on Sunday after being hit by a cargo vessel, killing at least 48 people, officials said. A rescue operation was underway, but it was not clear how many people were missing.

The ferry was struck by the cargo vessel at the Daulatdia-Paturia crossing on the Padma River on Sunday afternoon, said fire department official Shahzadi Begum. Rescue teams were deployed and passing boats were helping in the operation, she said.

The site is 40 kilometres northwest of Dhaka, the capital. Ferry accidents are common in Bangladesh, an impoverished South Asian nation that is crisscrossed by more than 130 rivers.

The ferry, the M.L. Mosta, was submerged at a depth of up to six metres, said Inspector Zihad Mia, who is overseeing the rescue operation.

By Sunday evening, at least 48 bodies had been recovered, Mia said. He said officials had yet to determine how many passengers were missing. Ferries in Bangla-

desh usually do not maintain formal passenger lists.

"We don't have a clear picture about how many were exactly in the ferry when it sank," Mia said. "But I think many have survived."

Jewel Mia, an official from the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, told reporters at the scene that up to 140 people were on board when the ferry sank.

A passenger who survived said many people got trapped inside. "The passengers who were on the deck have survived, but many who were inside got trapped," Hafizur Rahman Sheikh was quoted as saying by the Prothom Alo newspaper.

Authorities ordered an investigation into the accident and a five-member committee has been asked to submit a report within 15 days, the Ministry of Shipping said in a statement.

The Padma is one of the largest rivers in Bangladesh, where overcrowding and poor safety standards are often blamed for ferry disasters.

Last August, a ferry with a capacity of 85 passengers was found to be carrying more than 200 when it capsized on the Padma near Dhaka, leaving more than 100 people dead or missing. The ferry's owner was arrested after weeks in hiding on charges of culpable homicide, unauthorized operation and overloading.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lebanese families picnic after heavy winter snowstorm

Lebanese Druze families picnic in the snow a day after a strong snowstorm, near the village of Hamana, Mount Lebanon, Sunday. A heavy winter storm descended on parts of the Middle East on Friday with snow falling in Israel, parts of the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Senate still in stalemate as budget deadline looms

The possible shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security threatens the Obama administration's efforts to counter the extremist appeal of ISIL within the U.S. and to respond with emergency aid to communities struggling with winter snowstorms, Homeland Se-

curity Secretary Jeh Johnson warned on Sunday.

Funding for the department's \$40-billion budget ends on Friday, and no solution is in sight for Congress to take action by then. The fight is over President Barack Obama's immigration plan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine. Blast kills, injures at march amid hopeful signs

A bomb blast killed two at a march in east Ukraine on Sunday on the first anniversary of the ouster of the country's Russia-friendly president, a gruesome counterpoint to the hopes spawned by a ceasefire agreement more than a week ago.

An exchange of prisoners

this weekend and acknowledgment by both sides of a commitment to pull back heavy weapons are promising signs that peace may yet prevail, although sporadic exchanges of hostilities between government and separatist forces have yet to subside entirely. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Small business. Ottawa should directly invest in startups, says report

A new report by the Broadbent Institute and Atkinson Foundation argues, against conventional business wisdom, that it is often the state — not the private sector — that is best-placed to pinpoint the business world's trailblazers.

By moving away from its current reliance on indirect measures like tax credits, the report says, the Canadian government could do much more to spur innovation success and ensure that its rewards are shared more fairly.

And, experts argue, Canada needs to do something big and bold, or risk being left behind in the innovation race. A 2011 report to the federal government said it needed to do much better at helping small businesses grow into global competitors.

"Governments are the only the body in our society that can make the big bets on unproven research and unproven technologies," says David Wolfe, a political science professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

Despite Canada having one of the highest levels of indirect innovation support through tax credits amongst wealthy countries, its direct research and development spending compares poorly

Quoted

"Governments are the only body in our society that can make the big bets on unproven research."

David Wolfe, political science professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

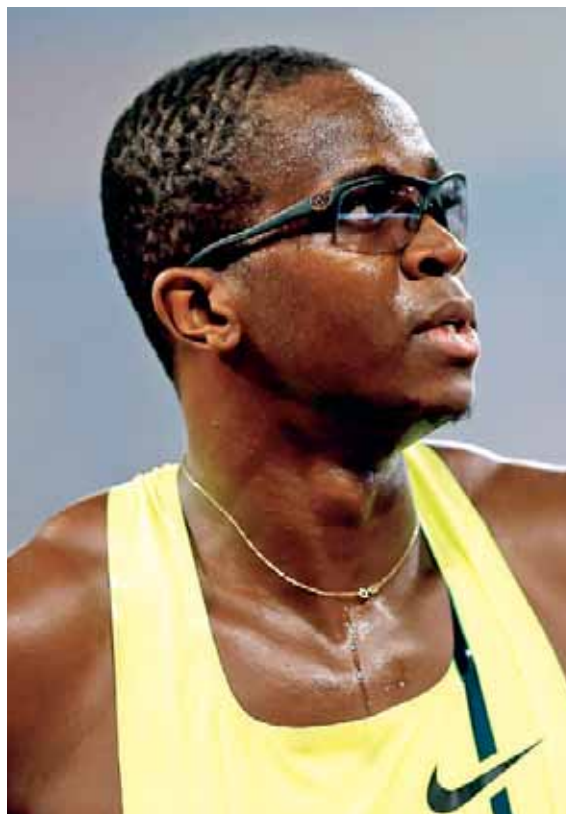
to competitors like Germany and the U.S. Those governments spend 2.8 and 2.9 per cent of their GDP on R&D respectively, while Canada spends less than 1.7 per cent.

Wolfe believes direct government investment needs to be seen as a critical part of innovation policy, and is worthy of more public money.

Ben Fox, who launched his web tutorial start-up Sidekick from Ryerson's Digital Media Zone, has benefitted from both direct and indirect government support. He agrees that both can be important tools — tax credits helped alleviate end-of-year financial stress for the fledgling company — but says direct funding was absolutely essential, affording the company the necessary upfront cash to solve early technological problems.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Renewed U.S. relations open up Cuban athletics, economy



Cuban hurdler Dayron Robles, wearing a jersey bearing a Nike swoosh, looks on after the men's meet in Beijing in May 2014. As recently as three years ago, Cuban track and field athletes were allowed to wear only Adidas, regardless of their personal brand preference. LINTAO ZHANG/GETTY IMAGES

National sports.

Revised rules allow Cuban athletes to sign personal endorsement deals separate from the federation's dealings

Before U.S. President Barack Obama announced plans in December to normalize state-to-state relations with Cuba, there were no warning signs.

But if you were looking closely, you might have seen a foreshadowing of the deal flash past on the track. Since last season, some standout Cuban athletes have competed in gear supplied by U.S. companies.

If legendary Cuban hurdler Dayron Robles competes at the Pan Am games in Toronto this summer, he'll do so in Nike shoes. Cuban track and field athletes wore Adidas regardless of their personal brand preference, as a long list of rules kept American companies from doing business with Cuba's state-run sports system.

But two years ago, the country's track and field federation quietly relaxed

regulations, allowing athletes greater autonomy regarding apparel deals.

"Eighteen months before the announcement, Nike had already infiltrated Cuba," says Kris Mychasiw, a Montreal-based agent who advised several Cuban athletes.

Brand mismatches between athletes and their national federations aren't rare. Athletics Canada, for example, is sponsored by Nike but can't stop athletes from seeking deals with other outfitters, a luxury Cuban athletes had not shared since 1961.

Robles complained about the federation's lack of resources and left the team in early 2013, only to resurface later that year on Monaco's track circuit — wearing Nike gear. He has since returned to a Cuban team transformed, one that has relaxed its individual endorsement deal restrictions.

The move to allow athletes the freedom to seek sponsorships comes amid broader reforms to stimulate the economy through private ownership of homes and businesses, the hope being to create jobs to balance national unemployment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Feds' GM stock may balance budget

The Harper government's push to deliver a balanced budget despite low oil prices has attracted fresh attention to a potential stockpile of federal cash: a multi-billion-dollar taxpayer stake in the auto business.

The government's remaining 73.4 million shares in Gen-

eral Motors are now worth more than \$3.4 billion in total, thanks to the combined effect of a solid stock price and a weakened Canadian dollar.

Ottawa initially booked the value of the stock at about \$1.1 billion, according to the Finance Department. The net

gain or loss from a sale would be the total proceeds minus the book value, a spokesman said.

The government would stand to make a net gain of \$2.3 billion if shares were sold at the current market value of about \$3.4 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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VOICES

THE SURPRISING SEXISM OF COCKTAIL CULTURE

Women in the mixology scene have to fight for respect — and so do the drinks that are traditionally considered ‘girly’



FOOTNOTES
Omar Mouallem

It was a dream assignment: Go to Prague, explore the craft cocktail scene, drink and write about it.

It led my wife and me to the world renowned Hemingway Bar, where barkeeps, much like the virile author himself, sported big beards, twisted moustaches and suspenders. In other words, the neo-bartender uniform.

We asked for recommendations. For her, a black currant cosmo with pistachio whipping. And for me? Something so manly it was topped with a slab of cured bacon: How predictable.

Talk to the anyone who enjoys craft cocktails and they’ll probably tell you the culture is gendered. Better yet, talk to the few female bartenders working in these

modern speakeasies.

“I’ll have customers sit at the bar and assume I’m a waitress,” says Elizabeth Yu of North 53, one of several new Edmonton joints wagering their business on the cocktail renaissance. “They’ll say, ‘Can you get him to make me a drink?’”

Shelan Reason of Three Boars gets this, too. Sometimes customers are more inclined to ask the chef for a recommendation than her. She says, “They don’t think you’re an authority.”

The sexist cocktail culture is especially odd because women actually rule the bartending industry, at least in the U.S. Unlike in male-dominated kitchens, women make up 60 per cent of barkeeps, according to its Bureau of Labor Statistics. Not bad considering some states banned barmaids from pouring whiskey until the 1970s.

But they’ve hardly penetrated the lionized

Prohibition-style bars celebrated in magazines and the Food Network. Even among their peers at Alberta-wide cocktail competitions, say Reason and Yu, they have to fight for respect.

“When I’m competing, there’s generally one or two female bartenders of about nine,” says Yu. “And people will compare the two female bartenders, instead of (comparing them) amongst their cohorts.”

“They had a side bet, whose girl bartender is better?” recalls Reason of one tournament. “In those competitions, if a girl doesn’t win, it’s, like, ‘Hey, nice try.’ Dudes are more likely to get constructive feedback.”

As customers, too, they’re sometimes patronized — suggested fruity, juicy drinks and asked, “Are you sure?” whenever they pass on it for something stiff.

How can we be better barflies?

“Trust my education,” says Three Boars’ bar-

tender. “If this is my calling, there’s no reason to think that I haven’t done my research.”

Yu, who invented North 53’s outstanding sake and rose petal concoction inspired by Persian ice cream, suggested I don’t make such a fuss about getting a drink in “girly” glassware, like a coupe. In fact, I should just drop the terms “manly” and “girly” from my liquor lexicon entirely and focus on the flavours. “That’s so ingrained in drinking culture, but it’s something we’re trying to shift.”

After a surprising amount of criticism, the Next Act Pub recently did just that and axed those two words from its cocktail menu. It’s worth it. Because back at Hemingway Bar, my wife ended up with the best damn drink I’d ever tasted. I should have arrived in drag.

Omar Mouallem is the editor of *The Yards* magazine.

Your Edmonton



A swinging good time

The Dead Stringers, with band leader Ben Sures, entertain inside City Hall at the last Swing and Skate event of the season on Sunday. The event, presented by the Edmonton Arts Council, includes swing dancing inside, which is piped out to skaters outside the building, as well.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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Upcoming

Edmonton’s toughest

If you’re a parent with young children curious about how Edmonton’s urban wildlife survives the bitter prairie winter — or you are just a curious adult — then the Urban Survivors event taking place at John Janzen Nature Centre is something for which you’ll want to come out of hibernation. The Explore Edmonton website explains this event, running on Feb. 26, will give families and children an opportunity to learn about Edmonton’s feathered and furry residents and how they fend for themselves in the cold. Participants will have the opportunity to inspect closely how animals equip themselves for the winter, alongside the opportunity to make their own bird feeder. Enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows to wrap up the afternoon. **METRO**

Feel the blues

Get ready to get the blues, Edmonton: The Winter Roots Roundup Festival is back for 2015. The event runs Feb. 26 to March 1, and the festival’s website says it features a musical melody of folks and blues music and promises to deliver some hot tunes to take care of the winter cold. Produced by Peter North and Folkwaysalive, the event will feature a variety of different genres of the blues and folk music, featuring acts like legendary musician and front man, Jim Kweskin. According to Kweskin’s website, the bandleader and solo artist is well-known for pursuing “traditional folk and blues with sophisticated sensibility of a jazz musician and jazz with the communal simplicity of a folk artist.” The event will also feature a number of workshops and film screenings highlighting the history and important stories rooted in the music. Visit winterroots.ca for more information. **METRO**

Oscars not really awesome

Academy Awards.

Host Neil Patrick Harris trades quips for singing and the show never really recovers

MATT PRIGGE

Metro in New York City

How much of a mess are the Academy Awards? Not even Neil Patrick Harris — the obvious go-to guy who kills at the Tonys and Emmys — could conquer them.

NPH was to be the second safe choice in a row, after last year's Ellen DeGeneres show. Sometimes the Oscars think outside the box and pay the price: Seth MacFarlane singing about boobs in 2013; the dynamic duo of a dazed, noncommittal James Franco and an energy-pill-high Anne Hathaway in 2011.

It all started well. Harris ascended from the floor onto the stage of Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre for his first Oscars gig and immediately addressed the biggest elephant in the room. "Tonight we celebrate the best and whitest — sorry, best and brightest," he quipped, winking referring to the heavy snubbing that befell Selma.

But this was a false start. Savage quips were immediately — as in the next sentence — replaced by singing. Harris launched into one of those songs that Billy Crystal used to do, except only about a third of it was dedicated to jokes. Singing about "moving pictures" — it's 1895 all over again! — he offered a sloppy valentine to the medium he's shilling for at this awards show, at least. Harris inserted himself into movies, most of them old — say, blocking Sharon Stone's business from Basic Instinct — but also the night's only feted musical, Into the Woods.

Speaking of which, he was soon joined by Anna Kendrick, as well as Jack Black, who channelled his inner Tenacious D to offer the position that maybe movies are crap and this whole thing is a corrupt love-in. The Oscars do this every now and then: addressing that maybe the ceremony — and maybe even movies themselves — are irrelevant. And as usual, the event had



Akiva Schaffer, Andy Samberg, and Jorma Taccone of The Lonely Island perform Everything Is Awesome from The Lego Movie during the Oscars last night. The Tegan and Sara hit did not win the Oscar for best original song, which went to Glory from Selma, by John Legend and Common. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

List of winners

Here are the winners at Sunday's 87th annual Academy Awards at press time. For the full list, visit metronews.ca.

- **Supporting actor:** J.K. Simmons, Whiplash.
- **Supporting actress:** Patricia Arquette, Boyhood.
- **Makeup and hairstyling:** The Grand Budapest Hotel.
- **Best actress:** Julianne Moore.
- **Documentary feature:** CitizenFour
- **Adapted Screenplay:** The Imitation Game.
- **Original screenplay:** Birdman.
- **Visual effects:** Interstellar.
- **Best director:** Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, Birdman
- **Best actor:** Eddie Redmayne.

no real answers: just a flashy song-and-dance number performed by one of entertainment's brightest lights.

Harris couldn't really make the Oscars his own, though his best moment was almost certainly a genuinely improvised bit of silliness when he did a song and dance following J.K. Simmons' earnest plea for everyone to call their parents — call, not text — while accepting his Best Supporting Actor prize

for Whiplash.

But to the question all of you most wanted to know: Did the Costume Design trophy go to The Grand Budapest Hotel? (OK, some of us were worried it wouldn't.) It did, deservedly, as did the makeup and hairstyling award, for a film that successfully turned the ageless Tilda Swinton into a 90-something prune. In fact, it's odd that OCD director Wes Anderson has not swept the technical awards before.

Mothers and other strangers

Some of the night's odd moments

One of the bigger moments of the night came long before the ceremony even started. On the red carpet, Dakota Johnson got peeved with her date, her mom Melanie Griffith, who said she had still not seen Fifty Shades of Grey because you know why. Apparently Griffith is the only one who hasn't heard about its limp sex scenes.

Host Neil Patrick Harris had some noticeably questionable fumbles. He made jokes about Oprah's size and Octavia Spencer's snacking. He also brutally fumbled through the name Chiwetel Ejiofor. But there was a pretty funny Clint Eastwood joke that compared him to Kanye.

Ida director Pawel Pawlikowski became one of the few winners to ever conquer the nosy, impatient

orchestra, who were all set to drown him out far quicker than they would, say, a J.K. Simmons. He persisted and they actually shut up, only coming back when he would let them. Good on ya.



Dakota Johnson with mom Melanie Griffith

JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

#AskHerMore

Hollywood actresses sent a feminist message on the Oscar red carpet this year, promoting the #AskHerMore campaign that aims to put an end to sexist questions on the red carpet. "We're more than just our dresses," best actress nominee Reese Witherspoon said before the show. "We are so happy to be here and talk about the work that we've done. It's hard being a woman in Hollywood or any other industry."



Twitter

@fuggirls

#askhermore is great, but it's ALSO okay to ask/say who you're wearing. You got it for free. It's a transaction. Tip your server. -H #Oscars

@shondarhimes

Stop asking women questions about what they wear to cover the containers they carry their brains around in. #AskHerMore

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

'WE'RE MORE THAN JUST OUR DRESSES'

We hear ya, Reese. Though we recognize there is more to these stunning ladies (and gents) than their looks, here are the night's best dressed

METRO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Green light

Scarlett Johansson opted for statement jewelry in the form of a green choker, which complemented her Versace gown.



Carried away

Jennifer Aniston, wearing champagne-coloured Versace, tries to lift Emma Stone, who wore a custom Elie Saab gown.

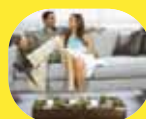
Lady in red

There was a contingent of leading ladies in strapless red, including Rosamund Pike in Givenchy Haute Couture.



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Make a plan and stick to it

Financial goals.

Becoming debt-free or saving for a down payment for a house requires sacrifice and a well-thought-out strategy



GAIL VAZ-OXLADE
Gail blogs daily at gailvazoxlade.com

Sometimes people say they want one thing but then do something that totally works against them achieving their goal. Home ownership is a great example.

Even if they manage to paint a pretty clear picture of what that home will be like, where it will be, and what it will feel like to live there, they can't come to grips with the fact that owning a home changes everything.

It usually means not spending money in restaurants, on new clothes, or on vacations so you can build a down payment. It also means not going out three nights a week to party with friends because now you have a mortgage and a whole bunch of around-the-house things to get done.

Deciding what you really, really want means that you not only visualize what you're trying to achieve, you also do your best to predict and understand the consequences of getting what you want.

Everything in life comes with upsides and downsides.

If you're only looking at the upsides when you're making your decisions, you'll be unhappy surprised by the downsides.

Having children has huge upsides. But having children also has enormous responsibilities that can take your breath away. Ditto deciding to go back to school, changing your career, moving to a new country or another part of the country, or becoming debt-free.

People often tell me that they know what they want. Just as often, their behaviours do



Home ownership comes with plenty of pros, but also plenty of cons. It's up to you to plan accordingly. iStock

not match their words.

It's important to understand and accept the consequences of your choice and integrate both the upsides and the downsides into your plan.

Sure, you may not be able to go out three nights a week with friends, but you can hold a game night or have a Dessert for Dinner evening where everyone brings something to the table.

And you may be stuck home with baby, but that won't stop you inviting all the other stuck-home-with-baby people over for poker night or to watch the latest DVD release.

Once you decide what you really, really want, putting some tracking into place to measure your progress is much more likely to get you there. Have you ever noticed that when you start some-

thing new you're all gung-ho, but as time goes by your energy and effort wanes? Hey, it's human. Once we lose our initial enthusiasm — when the immediate seems more tempting than the long-term goal — that goal feel almost oppressive. Really? We're going to turn down dinner out with friends again! When will this be over?

When you're working toward a goal, you have to find ways to stay focused on what you've achieved so you keep going. Having knocked a \$2,000 credit card balance back to zero, you may find your motivation to attack your student loan lagging. A vacation seems much more enticing now. Doesn't everyone take forever to pay off their student debt anyway?

You have to come up with

ways to keep the blush on your debt-free rose.

Measuring your progress is one way to stay focused and keep yourself motivated. By recording how you're doing, you can look at a picture that reflects your reality, not what you think is your reality. You can appreciate what you have accomplished in moving towards your goal.

I can hear some of you moaning now: "But Gail, all that measuring takes time I don't have." Really? You're trying to achieve a goal you've said is important, but you don't have time to check to see how you're doing? Or is it you're afraid you're going to miss the mark and would rather keep your head buried in your delusion?

Measuring can be as simple as making a chart and

Why so stubborn?

Hugely resistant to measuring your activities on any front? Maybe you're not yet committed to change. Writing it down means making a deal with yourself to do something that has results.

• If you're not writing it down, there's no deal, and you're off the hook. Of course it also means you're going to keep doing what you know isn't working.

colouring in your progress or as creative as making a debt-tree with \$100 leaves and then pulling off a leaf every time you pay down \$100 of your debt.

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A stuffed chicken breast is always a tender and delicious entree. The asparagus, brie and roasted peppers give this meal an attractive appearance since we also eat with our eyes.

If you want a stronger flavour, try using aged cheddar or goat cheese.

You can also ask your butcher to cut the chicken breasts into scaloppini to eliminate pounding the chicken.



This recipe serves four. ROSE REISMAN

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Lightly coat a 9- x 13-inch casserole dish with cooking spray.

2. Working with one at a time, place a chicken breast between 2 sheets of waxed paper and

pound to an even 2-inch thickness. Set aside.

3. Stuffing: Boil or steam the asparagus until just tender, about 2 minutes. Drain and rinse with cold water. Dice and place it in a bowl. Add the brie, Parmesan, red pepper and dried basil.

4. Lay the chicken breasts flat and divide the stuffing equally among them. Roll up and secure with a toothpick. Whisk together the egg and milk and place in a shallow bowl. Combine the bread crumbs and Parmesan in another shallow bowl or plate.

5. Lightly coat a large nonstick skillet with cooking spray, add the oil and set over medium-high heat. Dip the rolled chicken into the egg mixture and then into the bread crumbs. Sauté the rolled chicken just until browned on all sides, about 5 minutes.

6. Place in the prepared casserole dish and bake another 10 to 15 minutes or until the chicken is no longer pink (or reaches an internal temperature of 165 F). Slice in half or into medallions to serve. Garnish with fresh basil. **THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITE-CAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 4 breasts)
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp 2% milk (or water)
- 2/3 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese (1/2 oz)
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- Stuffing**
- 12 small (or 4 large) asparagus spears (about 1/4 lb/125 g), trimmed
- 1/4 cup diced brie (1 oz)
- 2 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese (1/2 oz)
- 1/4 cup chopped roasted red pepper (about 2 small roasted red peppers)
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh basil

**TOTAL
TIME
ABOUT 32
MINUTES**

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- Outstanding communication skills
- Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Office - Word, Excel & Outlook
- Attention to details and thoroughness in the execution of tasks
- Must be a team player with a great, and we mean great, sense of humor

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than February 20, 2015. PLEASE QUOTE: "Receptionist/Sales Coordinator - Edmonton" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.



Closures spell trouble for student employees

Job search. Summer job hunters may need to broaden search following retail closures, experts say

Students and new graduates on the hunt for summer jobs may find the search even more daunting given the recent grim news on the home-grown retail front.

With Target shuttering its 133 Canadian locations and Jacob, Mexx, Sony, Parasuco and Jones New York closing up shop, will short-term job opportunities be tougher to come by?

Hershi Rubinoff, president of career site CPG Connect, said she's seen a huge influx of visits from Target employees since the Minneapolis-based retailer announced its exit from the Canadian marketplace.

"I think that's the biggest problem that students and new grads are going to run into this summer because as they're applying for those



Young professionals are having to hustle in market that's bringing on hurdle after hurdle. ISTOCK

Unexpected competition

"As they're applying for those part-time retail positions, there's going to be a plethora of candidates in the market from Target and ... other retailers."

Hershi Rubinoff
President of career site CPG Connect

part-time retail positions, there's going to be a plethora of candidates in the market

from Target and ... other retailers," Rubinoff said. "Because there's going

to be so many of them looking for work, they're going to have the experience, and they're likely going to be willing to accept a lower wage."

But Lauren Friese, founder of TalentEgg, a Canadian job site and career resource for students and recent graduates, said it's still unknown how many of the eliminated jobs would have been available to young people.

The job market for teens and young adults remains a tough one.

Statistics Canada data revealed the youth unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage points in January to 12.8 per cent, with 30,300 more young people working compared to the year prior. Still, the youth unemployment rate far exceeds the national figure of 6.6 per cent.

Rubinoff said young people should be diversifying their job searches and looking to different sectors for potential opportunities.

"I know that event marketing is always something that is very big and definitely picks up in the summertime as the different consumer packaged goods companies look at grassroots ways to reach their target audience," she said.

Friese recently gave an hour-long presentation in which she stressed three main points on pursuing summer and post-graduate work: being resourceful, creative and taking action.

"Being resourceful starts with being very organized

and figuring out all the different types of resources that are out there to help you, whether they're in the online world or the offline world," said Friese, whose website features Bright Ideas, an online initiative aimed at crowdsourcing solutions to improve Canada's youth employment.

Friese said she thinks the exciting part of summer employment is that students get the chance to gain experience in an area they may be uncertain they like or want to pursue for the long haul.

"Once you graduate and enter into 'the real world' you don't get those opportunities to take career sabbaticals. You don't get those opportunities to just try something new," she said.

"You commit to something and you're expected to stay there long-term. And if you do jump around a lot, you're thought of as a job-hopper that's not sure of what they want to do.

"If you do it while you're still in school it's a completely different impression," she added. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Qatar 2022

Winter World Cup appears more likely

Global football executives will fly into Qatar this week to conclude discussions on when the 2022 World Cup should be played. The outcome already seems clear: football's biggest event will be played in November and December for the first time unless FIFA unexpectedly gives into European opposition.

In Doha on Tuesday, power brokers from Europe's clubs and leagues on FIFA's Qatar task force will once again spell out the disruption that would be created by splitting their August-May seasons. But with the final scheduling decision resting with FIFA's executive committee, it seems unlikely president Sepp Blatter's desire for November-December will be overruled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Harrison holding off on retirement

James Harrison isn't preparing for a second retirement ceremony.

The 36-year-old Harrison posted an Instagram photo on Sunday night saying he was heading to Arizona to train, as he does during the winter. Harrison will become a free agent next month after spending 2014 with the Pittsburgh Steelers following a brief 18-day retirement.

The five-time Pro Bowler spent a month getting in shape before showing flashes of his former brilliance. He finished with 5-1/2 sacks in 11 games for the Steelers, who won the AFC North title. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jones wins the Scotties for fifth time

Manitoba skip Jennifer Jones reacts to a shot during the gold-medal game against Alberta at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw, Sask., on Sunday. Jones, who won Olympic gold last year, defeated Val Sweeting 6-5 for her fifth career national women's title. Earlier in the day, Team Canada's Rachel Homan defeated Saskatchewan's Stefanie Lawton 7-5 to win the bronze medal. Homan was the two-time defending champion.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Sliced Bread' the toast of Daytona 500

NASCAR. Logano wins season-opening Sprint Cup race under caution

Runners-up

Reigning Sprint Cup champion Kevin Harvick finished second and was followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., the defending race winner.

Joey Logano, the driver who has spent seven years trying to live up to impossible expectations, raced to his first career Daytona 500 victory Sunday as he continued to reward Roger Penske for catapulting him into one of NASCAR's top stars.

Nicknamed "Sliced Bread" when he broke into the Sprint Cup Series at 18 because so many predicted him to be the next big thing, Logano found himself searching for a new job after four underwhelming seasons.

He was snatched up by Penske for the 2013 season after being dropped by Joe Gibbs Racing, a move that jumpstarted his career. His victory in "The Great American Race" on Sunday gave "The Captain" his second Daytona 500 title.

"Daytona 500, oh my God! Are you kidding me?" Logano yelled in victory lane. "I was so nervous the whole race."

The 24-year-old was quiet for most of the race, which was dominated by Jeff Gordon, who was making the final Daytona 500 start of his career. Gordon won the pole and led for a race-high 87 laps.

Following a restart with 19 laps remaining, Logano buckled down for white-knuckle, three-wide racing and surged to the front. He seemed to have the race under control, but a caution with three laps remaining forced him to fight for the win one last time.

NASCAR needed nearly seven minutes of stoppage to clean the track, and it set up a two-lap sprint to the finish.

He got a terrific jump on the field before a wreck fur-



Joey Logano celebrates winning the Daytona 500 in Daytona Beach, Fla., Sunday. CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

ther back brought out the yellow flag. It froze the field and Logano won under caution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS



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Bruins smash six-game streak

6-2 win. Patrice Bergeron said victory over Chicago more important than 200-goal milestone

Patrice Bergeron was happier that the Boston Bruins ended their losing streak than he was about reaching a personal milestone.

Bergeron opened the scoring with his 200th goal, then added two assists in Boston's four-goal second period and the Bruins snapped a season-high six-game losing streak with a 6-2 rout of the Chicago Blackhawks on Sunday.

Reilly Smith had a goal and assist for the Bruins, who were 0-4-2 during the slide, their longest winless stretch since 2010. Loui Eriksson, Milan



Bruins' Tuukka Rask GETTY IMAGES

Lucic, Gregory Campbell and Dougie Hamilton also scored for Boston, which pulled away in the finale of a five-game road trip.

"It was nice to see us stay focused no matter what, and just be strong mentally and find a way to keep pushing the pace," Bergeron said.

And the Bruins' slide —

which has put them in danger of missing the playoffs for the first time since 2007 — is over.

"It was definitely a tough situation," Bergeron said. "It was a little harder this time around. Hopefully we can build from what we've done today."

The 29-year-old Bergeron said he wasn't aware of scoring his 200th until he was told on the bench after he scored at 3:00 of the first period.

"I never thought, starting as an 18-year-old, I was going to score 200," he said.

Bruins coach Claude Julien liked what he saw, as the Bruins quickly nipped a Chicago comeback early in the second and then took charge.

Boston's Tuukka Rask made 26 saves and coasted to the win, but he took two penalties late in the first period that allowed Chicago to trim a 2-0 Boston lead to 2-1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Classy Coutinho keeps Reds running hot

Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho put his name into the goal of the year conversation with a brilliant long-range strike from 25 yards in off the crossbar in the third minute at Southampton. Liverpool moved two points off the top four in the Premier League with a 2-0 win. GLYN KIRK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Durant has more foot surgery

Kevin Durant had surgery Sunday to alleviate pain in his right foot, and the Oklahoma City Thunder expect him to return during the regular season. A screw was replaced from his October operation for a broken foot bone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

No Lack of quality in Canucks win

Eddie Lack made 27 saves in relief of an injured Ryan Miller and the Vancouver Canucks beat the New York Islanders 4-0 on Sunday. Zack Kassian, Radim Vrbata and Bo Horvat scored in the second period for Vancouver. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis

Ferrer cruises to victory in Rio

David Ferrer won his second tournament of the season and the 23rd ATP singles title of his career, beating Fabio Fognini on Sunday 6-2, 6-3 in the final of the Rio Open.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Working behind the scenes can be frustrating for someone as outgoing as you. But it does enable you to do things you don't want others to see.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Some people may say you are being too cautious, especially with money, but your sixth sense tells you this is not a good time to splash out.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Just because you disagree with someone does not mean you cannot be friends. The message of the stars today is differences of opinion must not be allowed to come between you.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

If someone you live or work with needs assistance today, and according to the planets they most likely will, you must go out of your way to help.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Keep standards high over the coming week and make sure those around you aim high too. You'll be judged as much on who you know as what you do.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

With the Sun at right angles to Saturn, you will have to give ground. Compromise is not an option, it's essential. There are times when you have no choice but to work as part of a team, and this is one of them.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You may have to postpone something you were looking forward to but looking back at the end of the week you will be relieved you never got started.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You need to recognize that you do not have unlimited resources. If there is something you want, and it doesn't come cheap, you may have to put it on your wait list for a while.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Saturn in your sign at odds with the Sun today means you must not get worked up about something which, in the greater scheme of things, is of only minor importance.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

What a friend or relative tells you may not be what you were hoping to hear but it is good advice and if you are smart you will listen and learn.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Stay out of a dispute today, even if you think you can bring the two sides together. Chances are you will bring them together but it is likely to be in opposition to you!

♓ Pisces

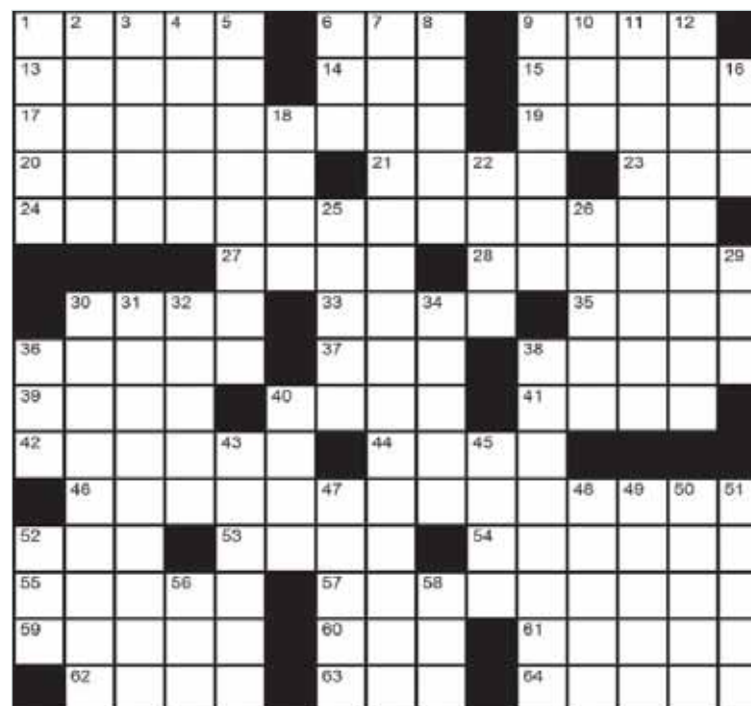
Feb. 20 - March 20

Don't worry if your latest project does not seem to be making much progress. There is a good cosmic reason why you are being held back.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Acknowledge
6. Bottom-of-letter letters
9. In ____ (Sequentially)
13. "From ____ shining..."
14. "____, what's up, doc?" - Bugs Bunny
15. "Tiny Bubbles" singer: 2 wds.
17. Michigan city of song
19. Keep your ____ the prize
20. Catch
21. WWII-era service-women
23. "____ Boot" (1981)
24. One was set up by a German U-boat landing party in Martin Bay in Northern Labrador in WWII: 2 wds.
27. Currency exchange fee
28. Songstress Ms. Gore
30. Aura
33. Santa Fe, ____
35. Ailments
36. Glimmer
37. Positive opp.
38. "Darn ____!"
39. "You leave ____ choice..."
40. Like venison
41. Not any
42. Deep blue
44. Blood type, ____
46. Toronto Maple Leafs mascot: 3 wds.



52. Association [abbr.]
53. Get paid
54. Six-headed mythological sea monster
55. Actress Sophia
57. Chantal Kreviazuk hit: 2 wds.
59. Olympic sprinter
- Mr. Bolt
60. Wrath

61. Painting stand
62. Thesaurus entries, briefly
63. Dangerous fly, when doubled
64. Salon snippe

Down

1. Awry
2. Actor, Cameron ____ Stewart

3. Mediterranean island
4. "But is ____?" (Museum query, perhaps)
5. Weapon axe
6. Collectible candy dispenser
7. Exhibit etiquette: 3 wds.
8. Piglet

9. "____ Fideles"
10. Mr. Orbison
11. Bill phased out by the Loonie: 2 wds.
12. Ms. Furtado's debut album: 2 wds.!
16. Switch selections
18. Take down ____ (Humble)
22. Mineral residue
25. Actress Lisa

26. "____ go?" (Was the thumbs-up given?)
29. Couture letters
30. Calgary Flames forward Curtis
31. "Dallas" actress: 2 wds.
32. "____" ('Dine in the Dark' restaurant in Toronto and Montreal)
34. Ancient land
36. Dieter's stat.
38. How clandestine operations are carried out: 2 wds.
40. "You've ____ Way" by Shania Twain
43. Big Bandleader Mr. Miller's
45. "It's ____ Quiet" by Bjork
47. Elliptical path
48. Way to learn a song on piano: 2 wds.
49. Meredith's "Family Ties" role
50. Hand creams ingredients
51. Jazz Mr. Julia's
52. Jazz musician, ____ Dara
56. German article⁹
58. Cost

Last week's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at
metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Last week's Sudoku



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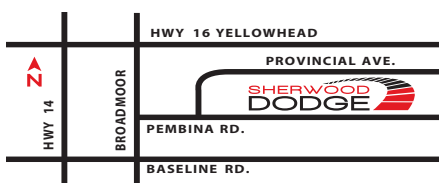
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